

THE BELLOWS

18th GREAT YEAR

February 20, 1997

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol. XVIII No. 5

WHAT

NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF PSPCS

WHERE

DES MOINES MASONIC TEMPLE 2208rd. S. 223st. (Take Midway exit #149 west off I-5..go to first stop light west of Pacific HWY. S...turn right.)

WHEN

Thursday, February 20th, 1997..7:30 till 10:00 p.m. (doors open about 6:30)

WHY

Short business meeting..Show & Tell..auction (one item per member please). door prizes..member trade & sell tables (free to members). There is no formal program scheduled. Any information on photographia members would like to share would be most appreciated.

DO YOU HAVE AN UNHAPPY FACE?

On your mailing label that is. If so it means you have NOT paid your dues for 1997. (If you have paid in the last three weeks..never mind!) Please send your ten dollars to Shirley or pay her at out meeting if you plan on continuing as a P.S.P.C.S. member.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE IN CHARGE?

Bob Kelly is looking for any member who would like to volunteer to be in charge of the club interNet page;if the club votes to have one after Bob's presentation at our March meeting. Even if the club voted to have a interNet page we could not without an administrator/guardian for it. Many of you seem to be into computers and should find this a fun responsibility. Just think of the power. If you are interested please call Bob (206) 432-3884. Thank you!

NEW YEAR..NEW SHOWS:

SUNDAY, MARCH 2: Portland Antique Photographica Fair. No nothing about this event. It will be at the Red Lion Hotel Columbia River, 1401 N. Hayden Island Drive. Contact Janos Novomeszky, Novomeszky Galleries, 5100 W. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89102..(702) 877-5400.

SATURDAY, March 15: PORTLAND PHOTOGRAPHER'S FORUM 15th ANNUAL CAMERA SWAP MEET. This has been a fun show in the past. This year they have a new location. The Collector's Market..8900 N. Vancouver Avenue, Portland. (former Pay-n-Pak store) Take I-5 to exit 306 B (Whittaker Road)..Go approx. ¾ mi. turn left (east) onto Schmeer Rd..Go about ½ mi. turn left on N. Vancouver and then right into parking lot. Call (503) 557-9196 for information. Write PPF c/o Online Secretarial Service..15166 SE Topaz Ave. Milwaukie, Or 97267.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30: Vancouver, B.C. Annual Spring Show at Jericho Hill Centre..4196 W. 4th Ave. 120 tables \$30.00 each..\$3.00 admission 10 to 4 pm. \$15.00 early bird at 9 a.m. Call Siggi for reservations and info. Telephone and fax 604 941-0300.

I hear a rumor that the Columbia Gorge Camera Club of Portland is Planning to hold their second show about mid. June at a new (larger) location. As you may remember, last year they held the show in the Gresham area. I don't as yet have a firm conformation on this show. Ed.

****BACKSIDE INFORMATION****

P.S.P.C.S.;Inc's January meeting came to order at 7:35 p.m. with 53 members and 3 guests present. Minutes of December meeting were approved. Treasurer Shirley gave her year end report of income and expenses with income coming out ahead of expenses for the 17th straight year. Bill Kimber presided for Dave Studebaker who was ill.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Shirley reported dues are coming in like mad..(see page one Ed.)..and we now have more then 225 members. She also reported that all the McKeown's price guides were sold; but some of Lind's List were left. Seven members indicated they would like a McKeowns so Shirley will send in another order with the same discount.

Show Committee reported that all current members had been sent a Show brochure with the January Newsletter. Brochures will be sent to past sellers in about a week.

Bob Kelly gave a 15-20 minute presentation on the positive and negatives of the Club having an Internet page. It was requested that we have a show of hands of those interested. There was a slight majority in favor. A motion was made, seconded and passed directing the Committee to come back in March with a specific proposal on which the membership could act.

NEW BUSINESS:

A letter was passed around from Bryan and Page Ginns regarding an absentee auction coming up March 8th. A motion was made, seconded and passed that the Club order a catalog. The Secretary will do so.

PROGRAM:

Bob Kelly gave a most interesting and informative program on Wellington, WA and Stevens Pass rail road tunnel. Bob showed many pictures of the town and the snow slide that knocked a train off the tracks killing many people.

SHOW & TELL..AUCTION..DOOR PRIZES:

Five members brought neat treasures for Show and Tell topped off by the large wooden camera and tri-pod shown by Ms. Maxine Nagel. Seven items were auctioned, two of which did not sell, the other five brought in a total of \$49.00. Door prizes were won by Dick Boress- cup; Edwill Smith- small camera.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m. for selling etc.

The following is used with much thanks to The Photographic Historical Society, Ed.

This Month's Mystery Question(s)-

Consider the Kodascope Model C 16mm projector (pat: Sept 2, 1924). (1) What was the reel size? (2) Wattage of the lamp? (3) How did it rewind? (4) What was unique about the lamp house? (5) What famous Rochester company made the motor? (6) What other famous company later bought the motor maker? **Answer at end of newsletter**



THE BELLOWS Newsletter is published 10 times per year by Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc. Information for The Bellows should be sent to: Bill Kimber 1413 Weathervane Dr., Tacoma, WA 98466-5712 (206) 564-4046.

Dues are \$10.00 per year and should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Sparrow P.O. Box 70, Ronald, WA 98940 (509) 649-2477. P.S.P.C.S. members receive first notification of our spring show.

PRESIDENT: DAVE STUDEBAKER, (206) 582-4878

PSPCS member Larry Raisch, Known to many as the, "Ricoh Man", sent along the following thoughts he wished to share with the membership. Any of the rest of you who would like to are encouraged to do so! Thanks Larry! Ed.

December 31, 1996

Dear Bill,

I am sure many of us supplement our camera collecting activities with the occasional photographic book or journal. So you'll understand why I bought an old issue of Modern Photography when I came across it the other day. Actually, I did not think it that old, being the May 1970 issue, until I realized that some of our members were probably not even born when it was published! Aside from convincing me of my advancing age, this realization caused me to reflect on just how much the photo world had changed in the last 26 years.

First, it would certainly be politically incorrect these days to carry as many ads with nude or lightly clad women as this issue features. In that same vein, it should be mentioned that this issue, which marked the debut of Jason Schneider as a staffer at the magazine, introduces him with a story about how Kodak once refused to process pictures he had taken on the grounds that they were obscene. Since the photos were extreme close-ups of his grandmother's ear, I suppose Mr. Schneider must have been left somewhat bemused. (We can only imagine what his grandmother must have thought.)

I'm sure that many of us have enjoyed Mr. Schneider's columns on collecting over the years, as witnessed by the popularity of the books featuring collections of his work. In this issue, he reviews the results of an auction of photographica at Christie's in New York. Oh, if only we knew then what we know now, or if we'd had the money then or if someone were to invent time travel! At any rate, by today's standards, the prices of many of the more exotic offerings seem downright reasonable. On the other hand, some rather ordinary pieces seem to have stayed remarkably stable. Were they that much overpriced in 1970? Here are some examples of prices brought at the auction:

A mahogany Half-Plate Daguerrotype w/tripod for \$2500.

A "lovely" 11x14 studio camera from 1885 for \$160. (including stand and lens!)

A 9x12 Zeiss Miroflex for \$170.

A Kodak Bantam special for \$100. (Schneider comments that this is at least \$40 too high.)

An Expo pocketwatch camera for \$180.

And finally, how about a Zeiss Super Ikonta "B" for \$40?

To give you some conception of how much our hobby has changed in those intervening 26 years, just consider some of the brand names advertised for sale in this issue. How many Mamiyas do you see for sale, new, in camera stores today? How about Kowas? Petri? Miranda? Pentax, of course, is still around, but the name is no longer after the Honeywell.....

I'm aware that this will sound like another of the "they sure made them better in my day" diatribes, but I can't help thinking there is some truth to that notion. I'm not speaking of the cameras. I'm sure today's equipment is superior in almost all respects to yesterday's technology. No, I'm referring to the magazine itself! The sheer volume of editorial content, the breadth of material covered, the depth of the articles, makes today's photo magazines seem dwarfish and uninspiring. Do the current editors simply lack the enthusiasm for their subject, or the means to print more content and less advertising? Is there an inverse connection between the amazing competence of today's cameras and the urge to master the medium we have chosen? Are we less the enthusiast when so little is required from us?

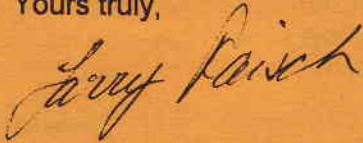


Continued on page 4.

Finally, for those of you who know that I primarily collect Ricoh cameras, I should mention that this issue was not devoid of interest. In a new product introduction, the Ricoh TLS401 is praised for its innovative eye and waist level viewfinder. It is even hinted that we'll be seeing more of this type of design. Of course this is another of those features that work a lot better in theory and the editors did not display any great prescience.

If any of our club members have not discovered how much fun reading these old back-issues can be, let me suggest they give them a try. I think they'll find it gives you a sense of perspective to read the literature of whatever period piques your collecting interest.

Yours truly,



The following Tale of the Hunt was first published in the Portland, Oregon Cascade Panorama. Much thanks to them and PSPCS member Les Morgan. Ed.

A Likely Story: Lost and Found

by Les Morgan

Note by Milan Zahorcak: Les is one of our Washington State members who lives between Olympia and the coast, and enjoys dual citizenship as a member of both the CPHS and PSPCS groups. He's often seen at the local Portland shows, and up at the big Puyallup shows where he also puts up a pretty good display. At a recent show at the Washington County Fairgrounds, just west of Portland, I was visiting with several CPHS members, going through my usual round of arm-twisting and extortion, getting people to voluntarily contribute to these columns when Les came by and said, "Hey, you want to hear a good story?" I said, "Nope, but I do want to read about it." He grinned, and said "OK." Here it is.

Through most of the 1950s, I worked in a camera store located on the first floor of the Elk's Building in Aberdeen on the Washington coast. While working there, I developed a strong attachment for a Super Ikonta B with a Compur Rapid shutter and Carl Zeiss 2.8 Tessar lens that we had in the shop. Eventually, I bought it, and came to love the quality and sharpness of the pictures that I took with it.

In 1960, I bought a portrait studio in Aberdeen which I ran for the next thirty years. Soon after I bought the studio, while working late as I often did, a merchant patrol man who had seen my light on, came in and we talked. Over time, it became a tradition. The Super Ikonta was there with me, often sitting out, and he would pick it up and admire it, and he often asked me to sell it to him. One night in the mid-'60s, money being short, I sold him the camera. Afterwards, I kept thinking, dummy, why'd you do that? Shortly after that, he retired, but later became ill and moved to California to live with his son. I tried to contact him, but never received an answer. Eventually, I learned that he had passed away. My camera was gone forever.

Several months ago, the camera store where I had worked in the '50s, went belly up. The store had changed hands, and the new owner had done well until he began to spend more time in the Elk's Club bar upstairs than in the shop. His stock was sold, and the store closed. Unsold items were boxed and stored, and the building owner took the unsold items for back rent.

A friend called and told me about it. He said that an antique dealer had purchased the unsold inventory, and suggested that I should go see if there was anything there that I wanted, and so I did. The antique dealer had boxes and boxes of stuff, all over the place, but finally, after looking it over as best I could, I made an offer, he countered, and we eventually came to an agreement. My friend, who had come along, helped me load the stuff, filling my Jimmy (like a 4X4) to the ceiling.

I drove home surrounded by hundreds of flash bulbs, dozens of projection bulbs, cameras and camera parts in a vast array of shapes and sizes, and felt pretty good about myself. At home, as I unpacked, I started sorting out the gear, and looking through my prizes. To my greatest surprise, as I opened one of the boxes, I found that I had bought back my old Super Ikonta B. I sat there and cried like a baby. Over the years, I had kicked myself a thousand times for selling that camera and here it was. I had never seen the Super Ikonta B in that stuff when I was bidding for it, or I would have upped the price considerably. Now my baby's back home where it belongs.

Answer to This Month's Mystery Question

(1) 400 feet (2) 150 watts (3) With a crank (4) It was on the side. The light was reflected by a mirror through the film (5) DELCO, they also made home appliances (6) General Motors.